



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

# REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663  
HALIFAX NS  
B3J 2T3

October 2006 Volume 67 Number 8  
club web site is [www.halifax-arc.org](http://www.halifax-arc.org)



## HARC is 75 Years Young in 2008



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421  
See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

### Our executive and committees.

<u>Position Name &amp; Call Sign</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Rob Ewert, VE1KS	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
2nd V.P. - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Secretary - Murray MacDonald, VE1MMD	876-0661	twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca
Treasurer - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
Director-at-Large: - vacant		
Club Station Mgr. - Brian Allan, VE1AZV	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
Past President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca

### Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

75th Anniversary Chair – Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ	veipq@rac.ca
Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager - Bob Burns, VE1VCK	865-8741 ve1vck@rac.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723 dgeorge@dal.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567 ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Distribution - VACANT and Needed	
Membership - temporarily being done by Murray, VE1MMD	
Web page – Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705 ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761 ve1qd@rac.ca
EMO Trailer Assembly coord – David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333 ve1eda@rac.ca
2007 Flea market Chair – NEEDED	
Field Day coordinator – NEEDED	
Safety Officer – Terry Bigelow	ve1trb@rac.ca
RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM,	860-1580 ve1wjm@rac.ca
RAC Atlantic Director – (acting) - Len, VE9MY	
NSARA Director - Scott Wood, VE1QD	823-2761 ve1qd@rac.ca

### Take-15 Net Controllers

#### NOTE: There have been some changes.

If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



Oct. 15	Dave	VE1EDA
Oct. 22	Charles	VE1MCR
Oct. 29	Chris	VA1CDB
Nov. 5	Herb	VE1HX
Nov. 12	Pierre	VE1PTR
Nov. 19	Win	VE1WIN

### EMO COMMS COURSE

November 4, 2006, 9 AM until 3 PM at the EOC in Dartmouth. Please contact Tom Caithness, VE1GTC or David Musgrave, VE1EDA.

**Deadline for submissions to the November Reflector is Saturday, Nov.4, 2006**

Theatre Rule: At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.

The General Monthly Meeting of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, October 18, 2006 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM), at the former Bloomfield School building (corner of Almon and Agricola Streets). The meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room. Our speaker this evening will be Spud Roscoe, VE1BC, talking about his time on Bounty. Guests are welcome.

### Notice of Motion

A motion, passed at the September meeting that “up to \$1,200.00 be allocated for the purchase of 2 I.C.E. 419B and two (2) sets of WARC filters” will be raised for second approval at the October meeting as required under the HARC’s bylaws.

*Acupuncture: a jab well done.*

**Nets:** EMO net Sundays, at 1930 hrs  
Take 15 net Sundays, at 2030 hrs  
Both on VE1PSR repeater; 147.27+

### GENERAL INFORMATION



TAKE-15 NET: Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on VE1PSR/VHF

#### CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR/VHF - 147.270 MHz +

VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +

VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -

access tone 151.4 Hz

VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

#### PACKET:

VE1NSD 145.050 MHz LAN NODE

VE1BBS - Local packet BBS

accessible through the LAN

### *Events for Your Calendar*

The schedule for the **Basic Radio Licensing Course** for the fall is on the HARC Website. Started Sept.14, it will run over a 14 week period. If you know of anyone who is interested in getting an amateur radio license, please have them get in touch with Scott, VE1QD

October 21, 2006 – Greenwood ARC Flea Market

October – JOTA

December 20 (Wednesday) - **Christmas party** at the Steak and Stein Restaurant, Young St., Halifax

Downeast Flea Market – The Halifax Forum has confirmed our reservation for May 12, 2007

In 2008 we'll celebrate the **Halifax Amateur Club's 75 years** of operation. What special project or activity would you like to suggest and/or be involved with? The back page of this Reflector is the start of the HARC's 75th anniversary publicity.

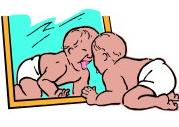
Bob, VE1PQ, is chairing this celebration. Contact Bob to become part of the planning & execution. The brain-storming sessions have started.

### **OPPORTUNITY NEEDED Manager & Storage for the HARC Tube Bank**

After 8 years of housing the HARC Tube Bank and overseeing its activities, Tom, VE1TA, (& Shirley) want to turn the Tube Bank over to a new manager/custodian. We have a good sized stock of tubes and while a fair amount of storage space is needed, Tube Bank activities should not take up much of your time.

If you're interested please contact a member of the HARC executive.

*Kids! You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next sixteen telling them to sit down and shut up.*



### **SAMUEL MORSE DIES** (but his Code lives on)

Hey you! Yes you! Over there. Are you a newly-licensed ham? Old ham? Taking the introductory course? Well, listen to me. Do you really want to spend the rest of your life on the amateur radio bands talking into a microphone and saying, "This is Vanuatu England One Rwanda Galapagos Bangladesh" every time someone asks for your call sign? Well then, follow me and learn the longest-established and most effective communication tool in all of radio: Morse Code. Later, you will thank me.

Go to the HARC website, click on the link to **Ham Classes**, scroll to the bottom of the page and get off at the Morse Code link. There you will find the details of this year's **Morse Code training** program. Don't wait – it starts soon. This course is free (although the instructor is fond of good quality dark chocolates). Got kids aged 10-or-so and up? Bring them along – they take to Morse Code like ducks to water, and they will learn a fascinating skill that, like riding a bicycle, will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Interested? Prepared to spend time every day practicing for a couple of months? Contact Gary, VE1RGB, at [ve1rgb@rac.ca](mailto:ve1rgb@rac.ca) **RIGHT AWAY!**

### **OPPORTUNITY - HARC Needs Membership Chair**

Tom (VE1GTC) has held this position for a number of years and he now wishes to devote his time and energy to other duties within the Club. If you are interested in taking over this important position, please let Bill, VE1MR know.

### **Greenwood ARC Fleamarket**

Saturday, October 21, 2006  
Greenwood Community Center  
Church Street, Greenwood, NS  
Opening times 08:00 for sellers  
10:00 - 1:00 Public  
Admission \$3.00 Sellers tables free  
Talkin 147.240+  
For more info contact Eric Smith,  
VE1CFY [ve1cfy@rac.ca](mailto:ve1cfy@rac.ca)  
*Or* Brian DeAthe, VE1RCF,  
[ve1rcf@rac.ca](mailto:ve1rcf@rac.ca)  
Web page is at  
[http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/  
esmith/GARC](http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/esmith/GARC)

The **HARC needs** someone to **chair the 2007 Down East Flea Market**. Please notify HARC president Bill, VE1MR, that you are willing to take on this task.

### **Are you up to date with your HARC membership dues?**

Yearly rates are as follows:

Full = \$25	Associate = \$15
Family (2 members) = \$35 + \$10 for each additional family member at same address (only 1 newsletter)	

### **REMINDER**

Have you changed your address? E-mail address? Got a new call sign? We need to know your correct address to get the newsletter to you. Please inform Murray, VE1MMD

[twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:twomacds@ns.sympatico.ca)  
of any address changes.  
Also please send your change of address to The Britt Fader Memorial QSL Bureau  
P.O. Box 8895  
Halifax, N.S. B3K 5M5

*Fractured Zen – The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a leaky tire.*

### **Puzzler– Do You Know?**

Can you state the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle?



*(Answer on page 9)*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Alas summer is over but fall is one of the best parts of the year, no bugs, not too hot and usually not too wet. It is also approaching time for the annual general meeting of the club. We already have a vacant director position and several committee chairs are needed.

First we need a nominating committee chair, this usually needs at least one other on the committee to canvass members to run for elected office. This is an important committee and we need someone soon.

Second we need members for the flea market committee and from those members a chair needs to be selected. This committee also includes members of the Dartmouth ARC. The outline of what needs to be done is well established and some preparatory work is already done by last year's chairman.

Third we need a Field Day chair. Many people help here and it is a lot of fun, but it does require someone to oversee everything and make sure the details are taken care of. A file of what needs to be done is available from last year's chair and will make the job easy.

We have not gotten a taker for the tube bank, so HARC will be giving it up unless someone comes forward in the next few weeks.

We have also not found anyone to take on the membership committee or Reflector distribution. This will become critical in the next month or so.

Please consider what you can do for the club and Amateur Radio. You enjoy the hobby but should put something back into it. Some of the above are single commitments while some are fairly small but continuing over a year or however long you determine.

Remember, HARC is the largest and probably most prestigious club in the Maritimes, you are a member and your voice goes toward making the club what it is.

This meeting will be the last full meeting of the year, I hope to see you there.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

## NET CONTROLLERS NEEDED

We are currently down to 7 net controllers, the ideal minimum is 10. The more there are the less each has to do and if someone can't take the net on his evening there is more chance another will pick it up. If you would like to do a little something for the club this is ideal, not very hard and not very often. Please contact Bill, VE1MR by: Phone - 865-8567 or E-mail: - ve1mr@rac.ca

## FOR SALE

The following gear has been donated to the Brit Fader Scholarship Trust and is for sale. The gear is in good condition, but has been stored for several years and most is not currently checked out. This is most of the rest of the gear, there are a few more bits and pieces and we may try to have them at the meeting this month. A few pieces listed from last month have been sold but most is still available. The prices are generally negotiable and are based on a percentage of new replacement price, condition and age. The following prices are guide lines for bids. Bids of reasonable offers will be considered and will be accepted until 6 PM October 18, 2006.

70' TOWER – with guy wires and turnbuckles tubular construction 10 foot lengths similar to Rohn G series.....	\$ 300
KLM – KT-34XA 6 el triband BEAM.....	\$ 500
JAYBEAM – MBM 88/70 CM – 24 el cross yagi	\$ 100
JAYBEAM 8XY/2m – circular polarized 2M beam New never assembled.....	\$ 75
32-19 Cushcraft boomer - 144 - 146, 19 el, 3.2 λ	\$ 200
TRM-3 Cushcraft roof mount tripod - 3 foot.....	\$ 25
Archer crossbow III ( new ) 11 meter 3 el beam - fine for remake into 10M or 12M beam.....	\$ 75

**To place bids contact:** Fraser MacDougall, VE1WO:  
email: ve1wo@rac.ca  
Phone: 865-4198

Just a quick note to let you know that today I went into the Tantallon Library Branch and spoke with one of the staff. Our donation (Ed Hammond's book) was on the shelf and he advised that it had been distributed to other branches. He also advised that several new ham radio books were recently placed in the system so I guess our efforts have paid off.

Murray, VE1MMD

## Stolen equipment

My tracker equipment was stolen from my car while it was at Harrietsfield having some work done on the car.

Stolen equipment: Garmin GPS-18pc  
Realistic HTX-202  
Elcom micro-tnc

plus the wiring harness made by Jacques has 1 Anderson power pole .

Rick VE1RGG



*Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.*

**Safety Corner October 2006**  
By Terry, VE1TRB

**Latest Drug in Middle School - Dusting.**

I got an email from a friend telling me about kids using cans of "Dust Off", "Blow Off" or "Blast Away" to get a quick high. I wasn't totally sure how true this was, so I checked it out with a friend in the RCMP who confirmed this is true. The kids call it "Dusting", and it gives them a quick buzz that only lasts about 10 seconds, if they are lucky. Fortunately, it hasn't been a "problem" in our area, HOWEVER there have been other ways kids have been cutting off their oxygen supply in a very dangerous way, choking. They will sometimes get a "friend" to wrap something around their throat, like an arm, belt or something, and at the last second, let them go.

One of the unlucky ones was the son of a police officer who fell prey to "dusting". At 5:30AM the boy's mother went to wake Kyle up for school before she left for work. He was propped up in bed with his legs crossed and his head leaning over. She called to him a few times to get up. He didn't move. He would sometimes tease her like this and pretend he fell back asleep. He was never easy to get up. She went in and shook his arm. He fell over. He was pale white and had the straw from the Dust Off can coming out of his mouth. He had the new can of Dust Off in his hands.

Kyle was dead. They later found out from the coroner, after the autopsy, that only the propellant from the can of Dust off was in his system. No other drugs. Kyle had died between midnight and 1 AM. Using Dust Off is being done mostly by kids ages 9 through 15. It makes them dizzy. A boy who lives down the street from this family showed Kyle how to do this about a month before. Kyle showed his best friend. Told him it was cool and it couldn't hurt you. It's just compressed air. It can't hurt you. His best friend said no. Smart kid. Kyle was wrong. It's not just compressed air. It contains a propellant similar to the refrigerant like what is used in your refrigerator. It is a heavy gas. Heavier than air. When you inhale it, it fills your lungs and leaves the good air, with oxygen, out. That's why you feel dizzy, buzzed. It decreases the oxygen to your brain, to your heart. Kyle was right. It can't hurt you. IT KILLS YOU.

The horrible part about this is there is no warning. There is no level that kills you. It's not cumulative or an overdose; it can just go randomly, terribly wrong. Roll the dice and if your number comes up you die. ITS NOT AN OVERDOSE. It's Russian Roulette. You don't die later. Or not feel good and say I've had too much. You usually die as you're breathing it in. If not you die within 2 seconds of finishing "the hit." That's why the straw was still in Kyle's mouth when he died. Why his eyes were still open. There is no chemical reaction, no strong odor. Kyle complained a few days before he died of his tongue hurting. It probably did. The propellant causes frostbite. If you still don't believe this, take a look at the MSDS on this stuff and you'll notice it says "vapors can readily accumulate and cause unconsciousness or death."

I think maybe a small compressor would be safer than this and if you really must have it, make sure you lock it up when not in use, especially if you have children or grand children.

**REMEMBER SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS**

If you have any comments or questions that you would like to see addressed in this column, please feel free to send me an email at  
ve1trb@rac.ca

**Field Day, 2006 - York Redoubt**  
total score = 7744 points



**Complements to Howard**, VE1DHD, for arranging for us to do Field Day at York Redoubt Historic Site.

Good location, lots of space and, in view of all the rain that fell Field Day weekend, the fact that the area drained very well was truly welcome. Plus, it rates a thumbs up for having running water (other than the rain) and flush toilets!

The new GOTA tent (*pictured above*) was a **big** improvement over the old "shelter". But the cooks have since been discussing the need for equal treatment.

Note: York Redoubt was a functioning part of Halifax's defenses from the late 1700's into the 1950's. During WWII, one end of Halifax Harbour's submarine net was anchored just below the site.



**JAMES VAN ALLEN DIES**

James Van Allen, pioneering astrophysicist, has died at the age of 91. His most widely known contribution was the 1958 discovery of radiation belts surrounding Earth, now called the Van Allen belts. He also is credited with the discovery of one of Saturn's moons in 1979. CGC

*When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.*



**Hamming it Up For Cache**

by Carolyn VE1FRG

What is geocaching? It is a high tech scavenger hunt that uses a GPSr (Global Positioning System receiver) to locate Tupperware in the woods. Some think it is a government plot to get GEEKS exposed to sunlight. Make sense? Geocachers hide containers ranging in size from a film canister to a 20 liter paint bucket in a location. This 'cache' contains a small logbook, and depending on size, dollar store trinkets. They use the GPSr to record the coordinates of the location, and then share these coordinates on the Internet at

[www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

Once other cachers see a new listing of a placed cache, they rush to the location to be get an FTF (First to Find). They sign the logbook with their geocaching name and exchange one trinket for another. After the hunt they also log the find back on the Internet on [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com). The log entry is usually a short story of the search or funny happenings while searching. The cache remains in place and people continue to enjoy the hunt, sign the log for many years or until it is discovered by a muggle (non-geocacher).

Currently there are over 2000 geocaches hidden in Nova Scotia, with at least 500 being within HRM. The caches are often camouflaged to fit in with their surroundings. There are many urban caches and many caches hidden along forest trails. Caches can be magnetized and attached to signs and guardrails, film canisters concealed in parks or historic sites, or rugged Ammunition cans hidden in rock outcroppings, strung up trees, or in boulders along a rocky shore. The rural caches take you to scenic spots, nice hikes, special fishing honey holes etc. The urban caches take you to historical spots or interesting parks within cities that people often overlook. The game is played in 200 countries around the world.

So what does geocaching have to do with Amateur Radio? A geocacher that also holds an Amateur license can carry handheld/portable units into the woods and/or in their vehicles. Many are volunteers with SAR (Search and Rescue). They often have keys to logging gates far in the backwoods away from cell phone service. Geocaching allows them to practice their emergency communication skills, their navigation skills, their searching skills, and their wilderness skills. Other geocachers carry handhelds for company (monitoring the airways) and safety in the woods. The radio also allows a cacher to 'take' an Amateur no longer able to get out in the woods along on the hike. Some make use of APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) whereby an Amateur can use their radio and GPSr to transmit their position. This process can be used for long hikes (several day hikes in the backcountry) as a safety option. Others take VHF and HF rigs up on high summits in their regions (where a geocache is placed) to make interesting contacts, and test their homebrew or purchased antennae. This practice combines geocaching with SOTA (Summit on the Airways)

[www.sota.org.uk/](http://www.sota.org.uk/)

Recently, a number of cachers hiked up to Labrador Castle in Lunenburg County to rag chew with Amateurs throughout Nova Scotia. They enjoyed linking repeaters and putting their newly created antennae and portable power systems to the test. Future summits and geocaches to be conquered this fall will be in the areas of Martock, Pictou and Wentworth.

Amateurs have always used technology for fun, learning, and emergency operations. Through the



years they have used their hobby to bend and mold the technology in unique ways. Geocachers also love technology. They often carry laptops, Blackberries, Palm pilots, Amateur Radios and more into the woods. They are constantly exploring new avenues to blend their hobbies for fun and safety. The two hobbies are a natural mix of pushing technological boundaries.

If you want to learn more about geocaching, the Atlantic Canada Geocaching Association is putting on a power point seminar at the Spring Garden Road Library Oct 15 at 14:30. It is free, and all are welcome.

**Early Canadian radio clubs:**

Edmonton Amateur Wireless Association was in existence in 1915. The Edmonton Wireless Operators Association came into being just after World War I. By 1927 the club was known as the Edmonton & District Radio Club.

The Saskatoon Amateur Radio Association came into existence on April 7, 1931.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 39

**Post-2001 IRCs bear expiration dates:** Many DXers still use International Reply Coupons (IRCs) <http://www.upu.int/irc/en/> issued by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) to cover return postage for QSL cards. As of January 1, 2002, UPU-issued IRCs bear expiration dates, after which the coupon has no value. The so-called "Beijing model 1" IRC expires December 31, 2006. The newest IRC, the "Beijing model 2," expires December 31, 2009. Check any IRCs you've got on hand for an expiration date! The UPU says IRCs are exchangeable in all member countries for the minimum postage of a priority item or an unregistered air mail letter sent to a foreign country. It is mandatory for post offices in UPU member countries to exchange the coupons.

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club  
Minutes - Monthly General  
Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 20, 2006**  
held at the E.O.C., Dartmouth, N.S.

President Bill (VE1MR) called the meeting to order at 1936 with 38 members and guests in attendance.

**Silent Keys:** There were no silent keys to report:

**Guests / Visitors:**

Len Round, Ontario  
Pawel Pralat, VA1XBN/ SP3XBN  
Jean Gionet, VE9ZD  
Linda Friars, VE9GLF  
Len Morgan, VE9MY

Richard Merry, Nova Scotia  
Len Morgan, VE9MY, Atlantic Director of R.A.C. brought greetings on behalf of RAC.

**Executive in attendance:**

Bill Elliott (VE1MR) President; Howard Dickson (VE1DHD) 2nd Vice President; Murray Mac Donald (VE1MMD) Secretary; Fraser Mac Dougall (VE1WO) Treasurer, Dick Grantham, (VE1AI), Past President were present.

**Regrets:** Regrets were received from: Rob (VE1KS), 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Brian (VE1AZV), Station Manager

**Minutes of the June 21, 2006 monthly general meeting:** It was moved by Emil (VE1ESP) and seconded by John (VE1HMH) that the minutes of the June 21, 2006 meeting, as printed in the September edition of the Reflector, be adopted.  
Motion was carried.

**Executive Reports:**

**Treasurer's report:** Fraser (VE1WO) reported that the current bank balance was \$7,546.73. Expenses for the month were \$4,244.64 and income was \$1,552.82. He explained that \$1,939.00 was for the purchase of course materials and that he had just received \$1,090.00 from the sale of the course materials which will be reflected in next months income. It was moved by Lynn (VE1ENT) and seconded by Doug (VE1LDL) that the Treasurer's Report be accepted.  
Motion was carried.

Fraser also reported that the balance sheet was in good shape with income over the budgeted figure and expenses below the budgeted amount.

**Secretary's report:**

Murray (VE1MMD) advised that he had nothing to report.

**President's report:** Bill (VE1MR) advised that the contract with the C.B.C. for our repeater installation on Geezers Hill has been signed.

**1<sup>st</sup>. Vice President's report:** Rob (VE1KS) was unable to attend and sent his regrets. He advised that he had nothing to report.

**2<sup>nd</sup>. Vice President's report:** Howard (VE1DHD) reported that Field Day was once again a success with the club amassing a total of 7744 points of which 1450 were bonus points. He stated that the facilities at York Redoubt worked out well and he recommended that the 2007 Field Day be held there also. He advised that the door prize for the evening draw was tool bag. The entertainment for the evening will be a virtual tour followed by an actual tour of the 911 centre, and thanked Barry (VE1JRG) and John Parker for acting as our hosts for the evening.

**Station Manager's report:** Brian (VE1AZV) sent his regrets. Murray (VE1MMD) reported, on Brian's behalf, that a number of club members were in attendance on the September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> weekend aboard the CSS Acadia. Brian had received an invitation from the Museum to have the station in operation as part of the Halifax Waterfront Weekend celebrations. A large number of contacts were made.

**Member at Large:** Vacant.

**Past President:** Dick (VE1AI) advised that he had received a quotation covering the purchase of equipment and a monthly monitoring fee to cover the installation of a recordable card entrance system for the club station. He advised that he

would install the equipment. The matter was referred to the executive for consideration, along with a number of other quotations that had been received.

He further reported that he had received a quotation for the purchase of band pass filters for use at field day and other activities. The cost of the 419B filters is \$288.00 US each and the cost for a set of WARC band filters is \$114.00 US. These figures do not include exchange, shipping or applicable taxes. It was moved by Dick (VE1AI) and seconded by Emil (VE1ESP) that up to \$1,200.00 be allocated for the purchase of two (2) 419B and two (2) sets of WARC filters. Motion was passed. This motion requires that a notice of motion be published in the next edition of the Reflector and a second vote to be held during the October monthly general meeting. Once the motion receives approval at the October 2006 general meeting, the filters will be ordered.

**Committee reports:**

**Membership:** Murray (VE1MMD) (acting chair) reported that he had received three (3) memberships for the year 2007. The total membership reported in June was 143. The meeting was reminded that a membership chair was required and if anyone is interested in taking on this task, please let Bill know.

**Search & Rescue:** Nothing to report.

**EMO:** Nothing to report.

**Field Day:** Reported under 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's report above.

**DX Forum:** Nothing to report.

**Course:** Scott (VE1QD) reported that there are fifteen (15) enrolled in the current course. The course has been compressed to a fourteen (14) week time frame. He advised that 7 of 13 enrolled in the self study program had successfully passed the exam.

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Bob (VE1PQ) reported that the committee had held their first meeting. A number of action items had been identified and assigned to various members of the

(Continued on page 7)

**HARC Minutes - Monthly General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, Sept.20/06**  
(Continued from page 6)

committee. He reiterated that in order for such an undertaking to be a success, it will require the involvement of each and every member of the club. He advised that each and every member of the club will be contacted and asked to participate. He acknowledged that he is pleased with the committee and reminded members to assist when asked. Bill (VE1MR) gave a short overview on the history of the club and advised that HARC is one of the few clubs that did not cease operations during wartime.

If anyone has any written material, photos, or anecdotes concerning the club, please do not hesitate to pass them on the Bob.

**Old Business:**

There was no old business to report.

**New Business:**

Bill reported that a number of vacancies currently exist.

- 1) Nominating committee chair.
- 2) Auditor. He advised that Matt (VE1BSG) had agreed to act as auditor.
- 3) Membership Chair and Reflector Mail out.
- 4) Christmas Dinner coordinator. Following discussion on the location, it was agreed to hold the dinner at the Steak and Stein. Howard (VE1DHD) agreed to look after arrangements.
- 5) Flea Market Chair / Committee members.
- 6) Field Day Chair.
- 7) Tube Bank Manager. It was agreed that if no club member agreed to take on the tube bank, then NSARA would be asked to assume responsibility for the bank.

If you are interested in assisting your club and are willing to take on any of the above listed positions / duties, please let Bill know.

**Announcements:**

50/50: The 50/50 draw in the amount of \$23.00 was won by Bob (VE1PQ)



Door Prize: The tool bag was won by John (VE1HMH).

It was moved by Sherry (VE1WST) that the meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 2049.

Respectfully submitted,  
Murray Mac Donald, VE1MMD  
Secretary, Halifax Amateur Radio Club

**Moon and Mars Frequencies Trouble Agencies**  
from "Flight International" magazine, (# 5055, Volume 170)  
26 September - 2 October 2006

The need for broadband communications with manned Moon and Mars missions is under discussion by the major space agencies because of potential problems with frequency availability. Video may have to be transmitted from Earth to crewed spacecraft by the end of the next decade and will require low-band frequencies already allocated to terrestrial users.

The space agencies want to lobby the World Radio Conference (WRC), expected in 2011 or 2012, to allow new allocations to enable the broadband uplinks required. Held every three or four years, the WRC is the only opportunity to change frequency allocations under the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), which regulates frequency use for satellites and other spacecraft out to a distance of 1 million KM (621,000 miles) from Earth, the legal definition of deep space. The moon is only 385,000 km from the Earth.

Space agencies have two meetings this year to discuss the issue. "Optical communications using lasers would be a solution (the ITU does not regulate laser communication), but the technology is not there yet," says Eduardo Marelli, the European Space Agency's head of frequency management.

**AMSAT News Service Bulletin 281.03**

From AMSAT HQ Silver Spring, MD ,October 8, 2006



ARISS, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program, an amateur radio project sponsored in North America by the ARRL, AMSAT, and NASA reported on the outcome of planning meetings held recently.

Sponsorship of the ARISS program is moving from NASA Headquarters to Johnson Spaceflight Center (JSC) in Houston. ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, ARISS International Secretary-Treasurer Rosalie White, K1STO, Deputy Chair, Mark Steiner, K3MS, & NASA ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO recently held planning sessions with various JSC offices.

One future goal which will capture the imagination of many includes the exploration of an ARISS role in the "Moon, Mars and Beyond" initiative. They cited Amateur Radio's potential as a valuable tool to people living on the moon for several months at a time.

Amateur radio will continue to be available on the ISS. In addition to the exploration initiatives just beginning construction projects will continue to take place on the Space Station. While NASA foresees busy work schedules for the astronaut construction crews they also note that more astronauts will be available to get on the air.

[ANS thanks to ARISS and ARRL for the above information]

*Customer: I have a huge problem. A friend has placed a screen saver on my computer, but every time I move the mouse, it disappears.*



*Do you have a radio-oriented story, question, answer, article, notice, picture or letter to the editor that you would like to share by having it published in the HARC Reflector? Get them to HARC Reflector editor, Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT <ve1ent@rac.ca>*

**From the Mail Bag**

To ALL users of QRZ.com. If you have noticed that your listing on QRZ.com has disappeared, please NOTE, that it has NOT been removed from the site database, but is simply not being shown as an active callsign because you have not been in to make any changes lately.

Simply go to: <http://www.qrz.com/updater>

and enter the callsign that you want to update (NOTE: you must be the official administrator of that callsign) along with your own callsign (may or may not be different from the one you want to update if you happen to be responsible for more than one callsign on QRZ.com) and your password. You are then able to make changes to the callsign and it will once again reappear on the QRZ.com site, BUT unfortunately the counter will be reset to "0" and there appears not to be anything that we can do about that.

I am not sure how often you must access the site and make changes in order to keep the file active and open, but I would suggest once a month should do it. Any minor change to the Bio for example should work.

From Terry, K7FE, Editor of QRZ.com  
Passed on by Howard, VE1DHD

Gerry Harris VE1AAC asked who was the first VE1 in a recent issue of the Halifax Club newsletter. That is all it takes to get me going. The answer is probably fifty or more would qualify for the first VE1. Bill Bligh 1BC & Fred Hyndman 1BZ were 2 of them.

Gerry sent me a copy of Lists of Licensed Experimental Amateur Stations that you had given him. In it, and in the lovely little history "From Spark to Space" by the Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club VE5AA is a statement I do not agree with. It leads one to believe Newfoundland and Canada received the current V prefix at the Washington Radio Conference of 1927. That is not true. Canada received the VAA-VGZ and Newfoundland the VOA-VOZ block of International Call Signs at the London Convention of 1912. I do not have it in writing but I believe that should read that it was agreed at the 1927 conference that the world's amateur radio stations were to use the International Prefix already assigned the nation the amateur radio station was located. This apparently took place in Canada in 1929, two years later, and that would be about right or as long as it would take to become official.

I just thought I would point this out to you and that some note should be left for those with an interest in this in the future.

73 Spud Roscoe VE1BC

From: Gary Purves (via Howard, VE1DHD)

Ron MacKay, VE1AIC who, is Maritime Frequency Coordinator now has a new on line site for repeater frequency, location, call signs, etc and APRS data and miscellaneous data.

Some parts are work in progress.

Go in and have a look at <http://ve1cra.net>

How do spammers get your e-mail address and those of your friends? How do you reduce those occurrences? Do you really know **how to forward e-mails?** 50% of us do; 50% DO NOT.

Do you wonder why you get viruses or junk mail? Every time you forward an e-mail there are e-mail addresses & names left over from the people who got the message before you. As the messages get forwarded along, the list of addresses builds and all it takes is for some poor sap to get a virus and his or her computer can send that virus to every E-mail address that has come across his computer. Or someone can take all of those addresses, sell them or send junk mail to them hoping you will go to the site so he'll make \$.05 for each hit.

How do you stop it? Use these easy steps:

(1) When you forward an e-mail, DELETE all of the other addresses that appear in the body of the message (at the top). Highlight them and delete them, backspace them, cut them, whatever it is you know how to do. You MUST click the "Forward" button first to have full editing capabilities against the body & headers of the message. Click "Forward" first to be able to edit.

(2) Whenever you send an e-mail to more than one person, do NOT use the To: or CC: columns for adding e-mail address. Always use the BCC: (blind carbon copy) column for listing the e-mail addresses. This way, people you send to only see their own e-mail address. If you don't see your BCC: option click on where it says To: and your address list will appear. Highlight the address and choose BCC. When you send to BCC: your message will automatically say "Undisclosed Recipients in the TO: field of the people who receive it.

(3) Remove any "FW:" in the subject line. You can re-name the subject if you wish.

(4) ALWAYS hit your Forward button from the actual e-mail you're reading.

Have you ever received an email that is a petition? It states a position and asks you to add your name & address and to forward it to 10 or 15 people. The e-mail can be forwarded on and on collecting names and email addresses.

The completed petition is actually worth money to a professional spammer because of the wealth of valid names and e-mail addresses contained therein. If you want to support the petition, send it as your own personal letter to the intended recipient. Your position may carry more weight as a personal letter than a laundry list of names and email address on a petition.

So please, let's stop the junk mail and the viruses.

## Of radio and old boxes... Going back to basics

By Craig, VE1JMA

A few months ago, my father brought me a box I had in my old room at home. The original housed my first scanner, a 20 channel Realistic Pro-2020. For the past 20 years, it has been home to some of my earliest amateur radio magazine purchases. With a slight smell of dust filling my living room, I found myself thumbing through the old publications and transfixed by them much like I did as a teenager.

Older now, and having other interests, I am still passionate about radio. It has become a true life long hobby. But what is it that makes me still tune up and down the HF band, even at the bottom of solar cycle when all appears dead or when new technology seems to pass radio by? Maybe the answer lies in the box of memories.

Looking at the old cardboard box itself I recalled the excitement of getting that and my other first radios. In the 1970s and 1980s, Radio Shack packaged their radios to capture the excitement of the radio itself. This box is dressed with exciting images of shipping, aircraft, trains, fire crews and law enforcement officers. I remember another similar box containing one of my first shortwave radios with similar artwork. These drew my curiosity and fuelled my excitement. The challenge of exploring, finding what was out there demanded acquiring and proficiency to do it. I sometimes flip through some of my first log books. Very basic by my standards today, they remain a testament to the sheer thrill of my hobby. It was basic gear using simple long-wire antennas in my parents' backyard but that first station laid the groundwork for my developing hobby.

Along the way mentors, whether they realized in or not, helped me. In 1976, I had a friend whose father was an

amateur radio operator. Mr. Corey's shack was a work of art in itself; a complete Heathkit station, its glowing dial lights and analog meters captivated me. While his kid wanted me to play hockey in the driveway, I was contented to listen to him chat around the world. I have a feeling the man didn't take the kid with a disability seriously when I said I wanted to be a ham, but the impression stuck. An air force officer, he was transferred and I soon lost contact with his son. One of my amateur radio dreams would be to answer his CQ on 20 meters— just to say thanks and good DX. During that time Jeff Harvey (VE1BLL) also helped me by passing along his own study material for the exam. Although it would be another 17 years (and a totally different exam format) before getting my license, I still believe those books gave me a foundation and prepared me in a small way for my hobby today.

Recently, I sat with two radio buddies my age and compared experiences. Each of us have similar stories of SWL'ing, the experimentation on CB and the passion of amateur radio. A part of me can not help but wonder whether the era that gave me this great hobby has faded, whether kids today have the same notions of radio as connecting with the world as I did. My nephew and nieces are more likely to play with a keyboard and mouse rather than a microphone and CW key. Maybe its my own impression as I get older but the planet did seem a little larger when I was their age.

The question becomes what are we doing for the next generation of radio amateurs? I have been very encouraged with the response students have given with the opportunity to speak to astronauts aboard the International Space Station via ham radio. Still, we have to question how many of us are sowing the

seeds by encouraging others to become interested, to play with a radio to see what's really out there.

I suspect young people are basically the same then as they are now, only with more technology.. Maybe its as simple as how we package our hobby to get their attention.

73 and Good DX! Craig, VE1JMA

**P.S.** The *Science Fair Globe Patrol* (like this model) was my first short-wave radio. Dad and I put it together as a kit. It had little selectivity and no filtering but I loved that radio. I explored the world with it and even took it to college with me. To me, this radio represents the thrill of basic SWL'ing, something I've never lost the thrill of.

Thanks to <http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/bapix/RSGlobeP.htm>

**P.P.S.** I have no idea where the Corrys are now. I lost touch with Mike, his son, soon after they left Dartmouth. Maybe someone in the club knows and could pass it along. I'm looking for Peter Corey; call sign may have been either VE1UN or VE1MUN

73, Craig, VE1JMA

### Answer to Puzzler on page 2

 The Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle states that it is not possible to observe the state of a subatomic particle without the energy used to make the observation causing a change in that state

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 25, No. 30 July 28, 2006 A recent addition to the DXCC rules has led to the designation of **Swain's Island (KH8)** as the **337th DXCC entity**.

*Strength is the capacity to break a chocolate bar into 4 pieces with your bare hands – and then eat just one of the pieces*  
Judith Viorst



# The Halifax Amateur Radio Club *is planning a party!*



# 75 Years

**1933** was a very significant year for many people and events. For example: Construction began on the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco Bay; The Blaine Act ended Prohibition in the United States, the original film version of "King Kong", starring Fay Wray, premiered at Radio City Music Hall and the Roxy Theater in New York City; The first modern sighting of the Loch Ness Monster was reported; Wiley Post became the first person to fly solo around the world; Albert Einstein arrived in the United States as a refugee from Nazi Germany; FM radio was patented and ...

## The Halifax ARC was founded!

**H**alifax is a city that abounds in history, has a magnificent waterfront on one of the foremost harbours in North America, tons of shopping and entertainment that rivals any major city in Canada and much, much more. We are planning many activities that will make the best use of these and other attractions to celebrate HARC's birthday.

**A**ll are invited to join the grand celebration being planned for the Summer of 2008 in Halifax. We have two years and this will be the Ham Event of the year in Eastern Canada. You won't be happy if you miss this one!

**R**emember to make Halifax and Nova Scotia a destination for your travel plans in the summer of 2008. More news will follow.

**C**heck local nets, club meetings and newsletters/newspapers throughout the year for more info and updates contact:  
[ve1nq@rac.ca](mailto:ve1nq@rac.ca) (HARC 75th Anniversary Committee Chair)